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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 002119

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR PRM/ANE, EUR/SE, NEA/NGA, IO AND SA/PAB, NSC FOR
DWORKEN, MANN, KHALILZAD, QUANRUD, AND BRYZA
DEPT PASS USAID FOR NATSIOS, DCHA/OFDA FOR GARVELINK,
MCCONNELL, MARX, AND FARNSWORTH, ANE/AA FOR CHAMBERLAIN,
USAID/A, DCHA/AA, DCHA/RMT, DCHA/OFDA, DCHA/FFP, DCHA/OTI,
DCHA/DG, ANE/AA AND USAID/AA
ROME FOR FODOG, GENEVA FOR RMA AND NKYLOH
EUCOM FOR J3, J5 AND POLAD
CENTCOM FOR J3, J5 AND POLAD
PACOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AA](#) [EAID](#) [EFIN](#) [IZ](#) [MOPS](#) [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: WFP AND UNICEF SHIPMENTS TO NORTHERN IRAQ, UN
PERSONNEL ISSUES IN TURKEY

1. (SBU) Summary: Three WFP successfully crossed the Turkish-Iraqi border on 29 March and continued on to a UN warehouse in northern Iraq. Two UNICEF trucks carrying non-food items are currently on the border awaiting clearance to cross. In another development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) presented a Note Verbale to the UN Resident Coordinator on 28 March requesting information on UN employees involved in humanitarian activities in Turkey, and asking that the UN in Turkey not employ individuals who had recently worked in Iraq. End summary.

2. (U) On 29 March three WFP trucks with 60 metric tons of wheat, soy and milk powder crossed the Turkish-Iraqi border. WFP had not received all the proper clearances from the government of Turkey, and there was a three day delay in crossing. Clearances were received on 28 March and, after spending three hours at Turkish customs, the trucks crossed the border and traveled on to a WFP warehouse in Dohuk.

3. (U) WFP will begin loading a shipment of 1,000 metric tons (approximately 50 trucks) of wheat flour for northern Iraq on 31 March. Paperwork for this shipment has already been submitted to the MFA and the Coordination Center in Diyarbakir. WFP feels that this should avoid delays. This is a critical shipment to start important food flows into northern Iraq. This particular shipment is targeted for Dohuk, where WFP has determined there is a shortage of wheat flour. Prior to the outbreak of war, the majority of Iraq received multiple rations of flour, while the Kurdish area received only multiple rations of vegetable oil. The shipment currently being loaded will be part of 6,000 metric tons that the MFA has approved for WFP to bring into Iraq.

4. (U) Two UNICEF trucks carrying non-food items arrived at the Turkish-Iraqi border on 30 March. The trucks are awaiting clearance to cross the border. UNICEF reported to DART staff currently in southeast Turkey that they have approximately 400 truckloads worth of medicines, emergency supplies (blankets, tents, mattresses, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, clothes, water treatment equipment and school supplies). Two hundred of those trucks are in Mersin. UNICEF states that all of these commodities are enough to assist one-third of Iraq.

5. (SBU) The MFA presented a Note Verbale on 28 March to the United Nations Resident Coordinator requesting that he provide the MFA with information on UN personnel involved in humanitarian operations in Turkey. The Resident Coordinator is to provide identity particulars, dates of arrival in Turkey, whether the personnel have residence and employment permits, what countries the employees have served in, and the particular function of the employees.

6. (SBU) The Note Verbale goes on to say quote it would also be appreciated if the UN agencies could kindly avoid employing personnel who have recently served in Iraq unquote. While this may affect the whole UN structure in Turkey, it has a great effect on WFP. WFP currently employs a large number of individuals with previous experience in Iraq, including the newly-arrived WFP Emergency Coordinator. The UN is discussing how to respond to the Note.

7. (SBU) Comment: In a 28 March conversation with the MDRO, MFA implied that the GOT would not go after all UN staff in Turkey with recent experience in Iraq, but they did register a definite objection to the assignment of a new Emergency

Coordinator, who most recently served in Erbil.

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